

CLAIM LISTING:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 through 22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) A method of incorporating zeolite in[[to]] a tampon comprising:

distributing zeolite granules on a first non-woven web; and

bonding a second non-woven web to the first non-woven web so that the zeolite granules are sandwiched therebetween.

24. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 23, further comprising the step of cutting the bonded first and second non-woven webs into one or more strips.

25. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 24, further comprising the step of ~~incorporating each strip into a~~ inserting the one or more strips between at least two absorbent pads prior to forming the tampon.

26. (Currently amended) A method of incorporating a zeolite in[[to]] a tampon comprising:

suspending zeolite powder and a suspension aid in a liquid to form a liquid suspension;

dispensing the liquid suspension on an absorbent pad; and

forming the absorbent pad into a tampon, wherein the zeolite powder is maintained in the liquid suspension when the tampon is formed, and wherein the zeolite powder is immobilized so that it adheres to the absorbent pad after the liquid suspension dries.

27. (New) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein the zeolite granules are one or more natural zeolites.

28. (New) The method as defined in claim 27, wherein the one or more natural zeolites is selected from the group consisting of clinoptilolite, chabasite, and any combination thereof.

29. (New) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein the natural zeolite is clinoptilolite.

30. (New) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein the clinoptilolite is a thermal type 3 clinoptilolite.

31. (New) The method as defined in claim 30, wherein the thermal type 3 clinoptilolite is a potassium aluminosilicate natural clinoptilolite.

32. (New) The method as defined in claim 31, wherein the potassium is present in an amount of the order of 4.3% of the zeolite.

33. (New) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein the natural zeolite has a solid density of about 87 lb/ft³.

34. (New) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein the natural zeolite is a chabasite.

35. (New) The method as defined in claim 34, wherein the chabasite comprises a sodium cation as a primary exchangeable cation.

36. (New) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein the chabasite is a sodium aluminosilicate.

37. (New) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein the sodium cation is present in an amount of the order of 6.7% of the chabasite.

38. (New) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein the chabasite has a solid density of about 108 lb/ft³.

39. (New) The method as defined in claim 23, wherein each zeolite granule has a particle size between about 400 microns to about 600 microns.

40. (New) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein each of the one or more strips has at least 0.030 grams of zeolite therein.

41. (New) The method as defined in claim 26, wherein the liquid suspension has at least 0.018 grams of zeolite therein.